

INCOMING TELEGRAM *Department of State*

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SEPT 26

SUBJ: WEST GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO US PEACE PROPOSALS ON  
VIET NAM

1. WEST GERMAN NEWSPAPERS HAVE GIVEN FAIRLY HEAVY  
COVERAGE TO NEW US PEACE INITIATIVES ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT HAS  
BEEN OVERSHADOWED BY BUNDESTAG DEBATES AND THE US TRIP OF  
CHANCELLOR ERHARD.

2. SEPT 26 PAPERS CARRIED STRAIGHT NEWS REPORTS OF THE WEEKEND  
TALKS BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND GROMYKO, AND THE NEGATIVE  
REACTION TO US PROPOSALS FROM PEKING AND HANTI. THE SECRETARY'S  
STATEMENT THAT THE US IS WILLING TO HAVE VIET CONG PARTICIPATION  
IN A POST-WAR SOUTH VIETNAMESE REGIME AND HIS SUGGESTION  
THAT HANOI AND PEKING TEST OUR EFFORTS BEFORE BRANDING THEM  
AS A "PEACE SWINDLE" WERE FEATURED.

3. EDITORIALS IN PAPERS OVER THE WEEKEND STRESSED THAT THE  
US WAS PUTTING FORTH A MORE POSITIVE FACE WITH AMBASSADOR

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GOLDBERG'S PROPOSALS. STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG OF SEPT 24 SAID  
THAT GOLDBERG'S SUGGESTIONS "SHOULD CASE AMERICA'S INTERNATIONAL  
POSITION AND PUT THE COMMUNISTS POLITICALLY ON THE DEFENSIVE".  
THE SUEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG SAW TWO NEW ASPECTS IN THE US OFFER/  
OUR WILLINGNESS TO LINK THE END OF THE BOMBING OF A DE-  
ESCALATION OF NORTH VIETNAMESE ACTIVITIES IN SOUTH VIET NAM  
AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT THE VIET CONG AS PARTICIPANTS  
IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. THE US HAD TAKEN THESE MOVES, WHICH  
MARKED A STEP IN THE DIRECTION PROPOSED BY SENATOR MANSFIELD,  
NOT BECAUSE OF MILITARY WEAKNESS, BUT TO EASE THE WAY FOR  
GROMYKO TO ACT AS AN INTERMEDIARY WITH THE NORTH VIETNAMESE.  
HILLENDRAND  
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State Dept. review completed

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